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**SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ALCOHOL AND DRUG PROGRAMS, INC.  
POSITIVE STEPS HIV/AIDS SERVICES  
DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA  
TI12601**

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**GRANTEE STAFF**

**Authorized Representative**

Lynne Appel  
Southern California Alcohol and Drug  
Programs, Inc.  
11500 Paramount Boulevard  
Downey, CA 90241  
(562) 923-4545 phone  
(562) 862-0918 fax  
lrappel@earthlink.net

**Project Director**

Mark Briggs  
Southern California Alcohol and Drug  
Programs, Inc.  
11500 Paramount Boulevard  
Downey, CA 90241  
(562) 622-3979 phone  
(213) 382-0798 fax  
briggs211@aol.com

**Evaluation Director**

Judy Doktor, PhD  
Southern California Alcohol and Drug  
Programs, Inc.  
11500 Paramount Boulevard  
Downey, CA 90241  
(562) 923-4545 phone  
(562) 862-0918 fax  
doktorjudy@aol.com

**Contact**

Megan Pickering  
Aletheia House - Grants Manager  
201 W. Finley Avenue  
Birmingham, AL 35204  
(205) 324-6502 phone  
(205) 324-7810 fax  
pickering\_megan@hotmail.com

**SAMHSA/CSAT STAFF**

**CSAT Project Officer**

Maria Burns  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockwall II, Suite 740  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(301) 443-7611 phone  
(301) 443-3543 fax  
mburns@samhsa.gov

**SAMHSA Grants Specialist**

Kathleen Sample  
5600 Fishers Lane  
Rockwall II, Suite 630  
Rockville, MD 20857  
(301) 443-9667 phone  
ksample@samhsa.gov

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## PROJECT DESCRIPTION

**Cluster Group Affiliation**—TCE HIV

**Congressional Districts Served**—California 32<sup>nd</sup>

**Purpose, Goals, and Objectives**—Through its Positive Steps project, Southern California Alcohol and Drug Programs, Inc. (SCADP), seeks to reduce the spread of substance abuse-related HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and other infectious diseases among African American and Latina women in Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 7. Program goals include adding 24 residential slots to engage homeless women and their children in treatment/prevention strategies, adding 23 additional outpatient treatment slots for substance-abusing women and their drug/sex partners, establishing on-site child respite care to address barriers to treatment and access, and creating a peer network component to strengthen existing services and conduct community outreach.

**Target Population/Geographic Service Area**—The target population for this program is substance-abusing African American and Latina women and their children, as they comprise the majority of the population for Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 7, the geographic region served by the project. Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 7 comprises the cities of Artesia, Bellflower, Cerritos, Commerce, Downey, East Los Angeles, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, La Habra, La Mirada, Lakewood, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South Gate, Vernon, and Whittier.

**Theoretical Model**—The proposed project design delivers a continuum of residential treatment and substance abuse day treatment with peer support within an integrated harm reduction model. Harm reduction is supported in the literature as effective in the reduction of HIV-related infection risk behaviors for populations that otherwise would continue high-risk behaviors. Interventions have been designed in accordance with the *National Institute on Drug Abuse's Principles of Drug Addiction Treatment: A Research-based Guide*, which distills lessons learned during 25 years of scientific interventions into 13 “Best Practices”/State-of-the-Art treatment agencies.”

**Service Providers**—Southern California Alcohol & Drug Programs, Inc., will work in formal partnership with a local health care provider, Alta Med Health Services Corporation, to integrate services into the larger service community via a new partnership in a Coordinated HIV/STD/TB/Substance Abuse Prevention Network (CPN) in Los Angeles County Service Planning Area 7.

**Services Provided**—Positive Steps provides culturally competent, gender-specific services within a comprehensive continuum of care to address the complex and multiple needs of substance abusers at risk for or living with HIV/AIDS. The proposed project will deliver residential treatment, substance abuse day treatment, case management, and peer support within an integrated harm reduction model.

**Desired Project Outputs**—Positive Steps proposes to serve at least 90 women and their children via a 12-month residential treatment program and at least 150 substance-abusing women and their drug/sex partners in a substance abuse day treatment program between September 1, 2000, and August 31, 2003. A minimum of 1,500 educational messages will be distributed in the local African American and Latino communities during this period to increase awareness of HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted diseases, and other infectious diseases.

## EVALUATION

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**Strategy and Design**—Through the use of a logic model, the evaluator will measure progress toward the program goals and objectives using a combination of standard field research techniques, quantitative data monitoring, and thorough process measures. The evaluator will conduct process and outcome evaluations. The process evaluation will examine the target population and community, satisfaction surveys and training evaluation forms, cost data, and dosage.

**Evaluation Goals/Desired Results**—The major evaluation goal of the project is to reduce the transmission of the HIV virus and other infectious disease by substance-abusing women of color ages 18 and older through designing and implementing programming that will increase the perception of harm and reduce risky behavior. Attendant evaluation objectives include the following: Increasing the perception of harm by and of personal vulnerability to the HIV virus, increasing readiness and willingness to commit to risk reduction activities, increasing the perception of self-efficacy through making healthy choices, increasing skills acquisition, and increasing agreement with social norms.

**Evaluation Questions and Variables**—Although no evaluation questions are cited in the project’s grant application, the intermediate outcome variables are as follows: (1) sense of empowerment, (2) degree of perception of social support, (3) knowledge about HIV/AIDS, and (4) perception of harm related to sexual risk behaviors. The ultimate outcome variables are the percentage of adult women of color using alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and the percentage of adult women of color engaging in sexual risk behaviors.

**Instruments and Data Management**—In matching an intervention with its related goal, a specific instrument will be used to measure progress toward the goal. The core client outcomes will be measured through the use of the HIV/AIDS Targeted Capacity Expansion grant cross-site survey developed for the previous cohort of grantees, the Integration of Substance Abuse and HIV Risk Prevention Among Minority Communities survey.

#### **APPROVED FUNDING LEVEL**

01: \$500,000                      02: \_\_\_\_\_                      03: \_\_\_\_\_

**Funding Start Date** 9/00

**Funding End Date** 9/03